



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5383

February Session, 2010

* ____HB05383PD____032310____ *

AN ACT CONCERNING REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2010*) (a) In order to coordinate,
2 implement and promote responsible economic growth and activities in
3 this state, any of the following entities may, after approval by the
4 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, the
5 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and the Assistant
6 Secretary of Economic Development of the United States Department
7 of Commerce, either individually or in conjunction with one or more
8 other such entities, establish a regional economic development district
9 for the purposes of sections 2 to 5, inclusive, of this act and sections 32-
10 10, 16a-27 and 8-35a of the general statutes: (1) A regional economic
11 development commission formed under section 7-137 of the general
12 statutes; (2) any organization that has a strategy that would meet the
13 requirements of section 2 of this act and has been approved by the
14 Assistant Secretary of Economic Development of the United States
15 Department of Commerce; (3) a corporation exempt from federal
16 income tax under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986,
17 or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United
18 States, as amended from time to time; (4) another regional economic
19 development commission or corporation formed under any other
20 provision of the general statutes or any special act; or (5) a regional
21 planning organization, as defined in section 4-124i of the general

22 statutes. The entity or entities establishing a regional economic
23 development district shall provide for a board of directors of the
24 district. Not more than eight regional economic development districts
25 shall be established pursuant to this subsection.

26 (b) The boundaries of such districts shall encompass one or more
27 planning regions, designated or redesignated pursuant to section 16a-
28 4a of the general statutes, or, to the extent practicable, be contiguous
29 with boundaries of former county government regions. Each regional
30 economic development district established pursuant to this section
31 shall comply with the distress requirement provisions of 13 CFR
32 301.3(a)(1).

33 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2010*) (a) The board of directors of a
34 regional economic development district shall comply with the
35 provisions of 13 CFR 304.2 and shall prepare and approve a
36 comprehensive economic development strategy for the district to
37 address identified economic development problems in a manner that
38 promotes economic development and opportunity and housing
39 availability, fosters effective transportation access, improves workforce
40 development, enhances and protects the environment, balances
41 resources through sound management of development, and
42 encourages responsible growth and development. A comprehensive
43 economic development strategy shall contain:

44 (1) An analysis of economic and community development problems
45 and opportunities, including incorporation of any relevant material or
46 suggestions from other government-sponsored or supported plans;

47 (2) Background and history of economic development in the district,
48 with a discussion of the economy, geography, population, labor force,
49 resources and the environment;

50 (3) A discussion of community participation in the planning efforts
51 for the strategy;

52 (4) The goals and objectives for (A) taking advantage of the

53 opportunities in the district, and (B) solving the economic
54 development problems of the district;

55 (5) A plan of action, including suggested projects to implement the
56 goals and objectives set forth in subdivision (4) of this subsection; and

57 (6) Performance measures that will be used to evaluate whether and
58 to what extent such goals and objectives have been met.

59 (b) Upon approving the comprehensive economic development
60 strategy for a district, the board of directors of the district shall submit
61 the strategy to each regional planning organization, as defined in
62 section 4-124i of the general statutes, serving any portion of the
63 geographical area of such district, except if such regional planning
64 organization is not part of the regional economic development district
65 pursuant to section 1 of this act. The regional planning organizations
66 shall study the strategy and shall report their findings and
67 recommendations thereon to the district not later than ninety days
68 after the receipt of the strategy.

69 (c) After review and comment on the comprehensive economic
70 development strategy under subsection (b) of this section, the board of
71 directors of the district shall submit the strategy to the Commissioner
72 of Economic and Community Development and the Secretary of the
73 Office of Policy and Management. The secretary and the commissioner
74 shall review the strategy and, not later than sixty days after receiving
75 the strategy, shall either notify such board of directors of approval of
76 the strategy or provide the board with recommendations for
77 modifying the strategy for consistency with the state plan of
78 conservation and development adopted pursuant to chapter 297 of the
79 general statutes and the state-wide comprehensive economic
80 development strategy required under section 32-1o of the general
81 statutes. If neither the commissioner nor the secretary notifies the
82 board within such sixty days, the strategy shall be deemed to have
83 been approved. If said commissioner or secretary recommends
84 modifications, the board shall modify the strategy in accordance with

85 such recommendations and resubmit the strategy for review in the
86 same manner as for the original submission of the strategy.

87 (d) The board of directors of a regional economic development
88 district shall, annually, report to the commissioner and the secretary on
89 progress made in implementing the comprehensive economic
90 development strategy. A new or revised strategy shall be developed at
91 least once every five years. The board shall submit each new or revised
92 strategy for review and approval in accordance with the same
93 procedure as for a strategy under subsections (b) and (c) of this section.

94 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2010*) (a) The boards of directors of
95 regional economic development districts shall submit each adopted
96 and approved comprehensive economic development strategy to the
97 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development and to the
98 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management for review. Said
99 commissioner and secretary may review and make recommendations
100 to the regional economic development districts for consolidation of the
101 comprehensive economic development strategies to encompass not
102 more than eight regions for the entire state. After review by said
103 commissioner and secretary and with the concurrence from the board
104 of directors of the districts, the regional economic development
105 districts may submit such strategy to the Assistant Secretary of the
106 United States Department of Commerce for approval pursuant to 42
107 USC 3121 et seq.

108 (b) A board of directors of a state approved regional economic
109 development district that adopts a comprehensive economic
110 development strategy in accordance with sections 1 and 2 of this act
111 may request the Commissioner of Economic and Community
112 Development to approve the region as an economic development
113 district. If said commissioner approves the regional economic
114 development district as an economic development district, said
115 commissioner shall recommend to the Governor that the region be
116 designated by the Governor as an economic development district.
117 Upon such designation by the Governor, the board of directors may

118 request federal designation as an economic development district from
 119 the Assistant Secretary of the United States Department of Commerce
 120 pursuant to 42 USC 3121 et seq. Approval by the Commissioner of
 121 Economic and Community Development of the comprehensive
 122 economic development strategy under section 2 of this act shall be
 123 deemed to meet the requirements of 42 USC 3121 et seq.

124 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2010*) The Commissioner of Economic
 125 and Community Development may, within available appropriations,
 126 make priority regional grants to regional economic development
 127 districts for municipal development projects and for economic
 128 development and manufacturing assistance pursuant to sections 8-186
 129 to 8-200, inclusive, of the general statutes and sections 32-220 to 32-234,
 130 inclusive, of the general statutes.

131 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2010*) Notwithstanding any provision
 132 of the general statutes or any public or special act, projects identified in
 133 comprehensive economic development strategies approved by the
 134 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, the
 135 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management or the Assistant
 136 Secretary of the United States Department of Commerce under sections
 137 2 and 3 of this act shall be eligible for funding from any bond funds
 138 available to the Commissioner of Economic and Community
 139 Development.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

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PD *Joint Favorable Subst.-LCO*